

DoD IH Forum

Critical Incident Stress Management

USACE Haiti Recovery Response

Chris Smith

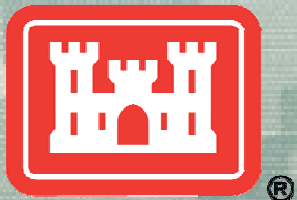
US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)

Task Force Haiti Peer Supporter Coordinator/

Critical Incident Stress Mgmt Peer Supporter

25 May 2010

USACE Deployment Center
Winchester, Virginia



US Army Corps of Engineers
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Critical Incident Stress Management

Haiti Recovery Efforts

- **Goal:** provide knowledge of the USACE CISM program and its support of USACE Haiti Recovery efforts.

- **Objectives**
 - ▶ Define and identify who uses CISM

 - ▶ Brief CISM History Overview

 - ▶ Identify CISM Tools

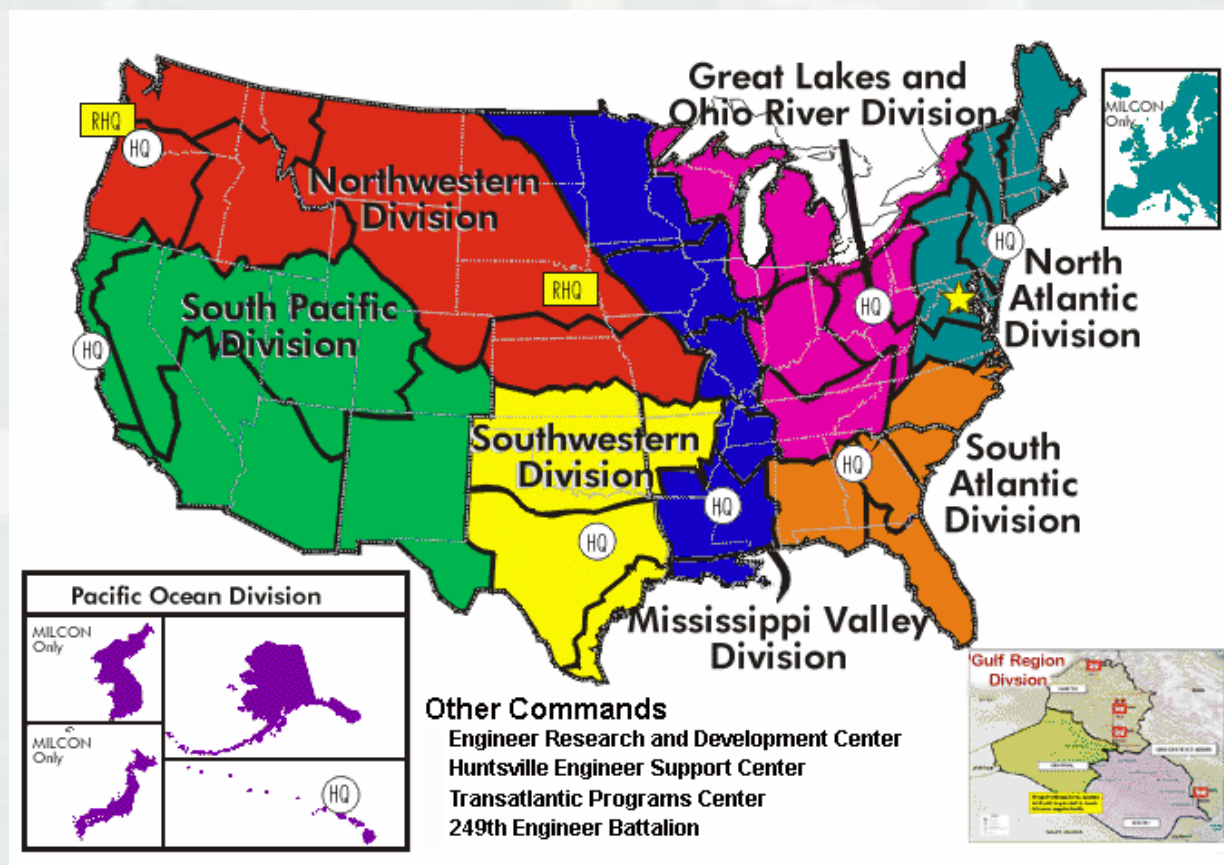
 - ▶ CISM Peer Supporter Education

 - ▶ Discuss CISM Team support of deployed civilian USACE employees in Haiti.



Critical Incident Stress Management

Who Are the Corps of Engineers ?



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What is CISM?

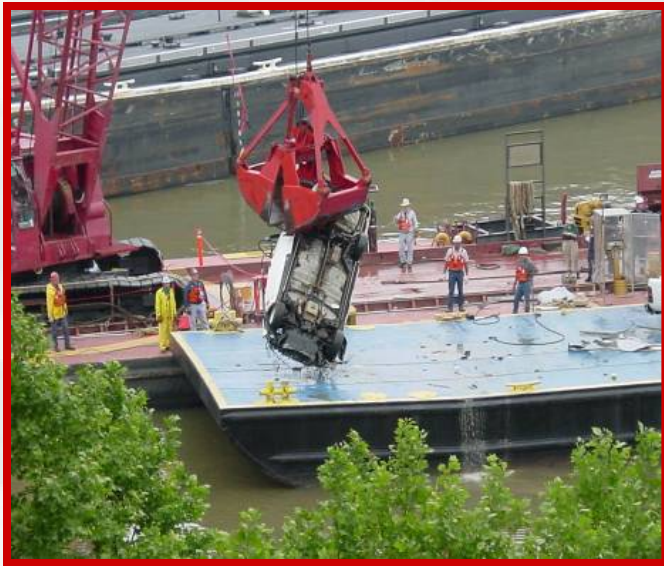
(Critical Incident Stress Management)

- A comprehensive peer-driven stress management program; includes pre-crisis preparation, stress education, and intervention in response to a critical incident.
- It helps people recover more quickly from abnormally stressful events.



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Critical Incident Stress Management A History



2002 – SWD CISM Initiation
First Activation
*May 2002,
I 40-Bridge Incident, AR*

- **September 5, 2003** - CISM PDT authorized by Chief of Engineers, LTG Robert Flowers – established USACE CISM program model for potential implementation.
- **May 15, 2006** - LTG Carl Strock authorizes nation wide implementation of a CISM program
- **Today**, hurricane and local responses continue.



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How Does CISM Work ?

- **Goals**

- ▶ Relieve impact of event.
- ▶ Help the normal recovery process for people who are having “normal reactions” to abnormal events.
- ▶ Restore employees to the “new” normal.



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How Does CISM Work ?

- **Peer Supporters**

- ▶ Corps of Engineers employee volunteers trained and certified in providing CISM interventions
- ▶ The CISM Team provides information about critical incidents and stress reactions that employees can use to help identify healthy life choices. The team provides a confidential atmosphere of concern and caring as well as identifying personal options for dealing with stress.



CISM Definition

- a personal definition

“Corps employees helping Corps employees in time of need as peer supporters/co-workers, utilizing prescribed methods to assist with returning to “a new normal”. The Corps Family helping the Corps Family.”

Chris Smith, USACE CISM Team



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Who Uses CISM

- US Navy
- US Air Force
- US Coast Guard
- **US Army**
- US Dept. of Agriculture
- Homeland Security
- FBI
- Police Depts.
- National/International Relief Agencies
- Martin Marietta Corp
- American/International Red Cross
- National Park Service
- Bureau of Land Management
- FAA
- EPA
- FEMA
- Many Airlines
- Emergency Medical Services
- Motorola Communications
- United Auto Workers



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CISM Peer Supporter Support



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▪ Background

- ▶ USACE supporting humanitarian efforts led by the US State Department, US Agency for International Development (USAID), U.S. SOUTHCOM

- ▶ Operations Orders

- CISM Deployment Directives – Health Services Support

- Provide Peer Support

- ▶ Virtual Support Team (*VIST*)

- ▶ USACE Deployment Center (*UDC*) Peer Support Teams



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■ Deployed Profile

- ▶ Experienced response team members,
- ▶ 30-60 day deployments,
- ▶ Usually activated from home district,
- ▶ Civil, structural, electrical, and hydrological engineers
- ▶ USACE Urban Search and Rescue Team; assessing damage determining re-building plans and debris missions



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“The only way to describe and understand Haiti is to have been there, to experience the smells, tastes, to hear and touch the environment around you.”

Returning Haiti Task Force Member



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▪ CISM Team Profile

- ▶ # of deployed Peer Supporters:14
- ▶ Deployment Time Line: January – May 10
- ▶ # Critical Incident Response Teams: 4
- ▶ Trained on-site UDC Peer Supporters for continuous local peer support.



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Joint Task Force-Haiti
US Army Corps of Engineers
[Deployment Coping Tips](#)

CISM Program Managers:
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24 hours cell phone: 214-356-7837
Mark Roderick
Office Phone 618-724-2493
24 hours cell phone: 618-218-8687

corpslakes.usace.army.mil/employees/cism/cism.html



Joint Task Force-Haiti
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Deployment/Redeployment Procedures

- ▶ Crisis Management Briefings
- ▶ One-on-Ones
- ▶ Presence



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Questions

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